

What is claimed is:

1 1. A device for providing identification of a user and authorization for a user to interact
2 with a processor comprising:

3 a detector adapted to receive an electromagnetic signal within a predetermined
4 wavelength range, to transduce the electromagnetic signal into an electronic signal, and to transmit
5 the electronic signal to a processor, the processor having software means resident therein for
6 comparing the electronic signal with a set of approved user signals and for issuing an approval code;
7 and

8 display means integrally mounted with the detector, connectable for electronic
9 communication with the processor, and adapted to receive the approval code for permitting
10 interaction between the user and the processor and to display a communication from the processor
11 to the user.

1 2. The device recited in Claim 1, wherein the detector comprises a transponder reader
2 adapted to receive an electromagnetic signal from a transponder.

1 3. The device recited in Claim 1, further comprising a transmitter adapted to transmit
2 electronic energy within a desired frequency range to a transponder device, and wherein the detector
3 is adapted to receive a returning electromagnetic signal from the transponder device, the returning
4 electromagnetic signal modulated by the transponder device.

1 4. The device recited in Claim 3, wherein the predetermined frequency range comprises
2 at least a segment of the radio frequency region of the electromagnetic spectrum.

1 5. The device recited in Claim 1, wherein the display means comprises a video display
2 screen.

1 6. The device recited in Claim 5, wherein the video display screen comprises a touch
2 screen adapted for transducing a physical contact into a location-dependent electronic signal
3 transmittable to the processor.

1 7. The device recited in Claim 5, wherein the video display comprises a monitor selected
2 from a group consisting of a flat panel liquid crystal display and a gas plasma display.

1 8. The device recited in Claim 1, further comprising input means connectable for
2 electronic communication with the processor and adapted to permit an interaction between a user
3 and the processor.

1 9. The device recited in Claim 8, wherein the input means comprises a keyboard.

1 **10.** The device recited in Claim 8, wherein the input means and the display means
2 comprise a video display touch screen adapted for transducing a physical contact into a location-
3 dependent electronic signal transmittable to the processor.

1 **11.** The device recited in Claim 1, further comprising means in electronic communication
2 with the processor for effecting a wireless data transfer between a storage device in electronic
3 communication with the processor and an electronic receiving unit in electronic communication with
4 a transponder device adapted to emit the electromagnetic signal.

1 **12.** A device for providing identification of a user and authorization for the user to
2 interact with a processor comprising:

3 a detector adapted to sense a presence of an identification element within a
4 predetermined distance, to sense a code from the identification element indicative of an identity of
5 a user, and to transmit the sensed code to a processor, the processor having software means resident
6 therein for comparing the sensed code with a set of approved user signals and for issuing an approval
7 code; and

8 display means integrally mounted with the detector, connectable for electronic
9 communication with the processor, and adapted to receive the approval code for permitting
10 interaction between the user and the processor and to display a communication from the processor
11 to the user.

1 13. A system for providing identification of a user and authorization for the user to
2 interact with a processor comprising:

3 a transponder having an identification code programmed thereinto;

4 a detector adapted to receive an electromagnetic signal indicative of the identification
5 code within a predetermined wavelength range from the transponder, to transduce the
6 electromagnetic signal into an electronic signal, and to transmit the electronic signal to a processor,
7 the processor having software means resident therein for comparing the electronic signal with a set
8 of approved user signals and for issuing an approval code; and

9 display means integrally mounted with the detector, connectable for electronic
10 communication with the processor, and adapted to receive the approval code for permitting
11 interaction between the user and the processor and to display a communication from the processor
12 to the user.

1 14. The system recited in Claim 13, further comprising input means connectable in
2 electronic communication with the processor for permitting user interaction with the processor.

1 15. The system recited in Claim 14, wherein the input means comprises a keyboard.

1 16. The system recited in Claim 14, wherein the input means and the display means
2 comprises a touch video screen.

1 17. The system recited in Claim 13, further comprising a personal communication unit
2 comprising the transponder and data receiving means, and wherein the software means further has
3 means for performing communication with and retrieving data from a database in electronic
4 communication with the processor, and further comprising a transmitter for transferring retrieved
5 data from the communication performing and data retrieving means to the data receiving means.

1 18. A method for providing identification of a user and authorization for the user to
2 interact with a processor comprising the steps of:

3 automatically detecting an identification code from a transponder within a
4 predetermined energy range;

5 transmitting the identification code to a processor;

6 using software means resident in the processor to compare the identification code
7 with a list of approved identification codes, each identification code indicative of a particular user;
8 and

9 displaying an indication of approval to the user on a display device and permitting
10 interaction with the processor by the user if the identification code matches a code on the approved
11 code list.

1 19. The method recited in Claim 18, wherein the detecting step comprises interrogating
2 the transponder with an emitted electromagnetic signal.

1 **20.** The method recited in Claim 19, wherein the interrogating step comprises emitting
2 a signal in the radio frequency range, the signal modulatable by the transponder, and decoding the
3 modulated signal to determine the identification code.

1 **21.** A system for providing identification of a user and authorization for a user to interact
2 with a processor comprising:

3 a visual display device;

4 a first detector integrally mounted with the visual display device, the first detector
5 adapted to receive an electromagnetic signal within a predetermined wavelength range, to transduce
6 the electromagnetic signal into an electronic signal, and to transmit the electronic signal;

7 a second detector integrally mounted with the visual display device, the second
8 detector adapted to receive the electronic signal from the first detector, to perform thereupon a visual
9 scan of a user, and to transmit in electronic form data representative of the visual scan to a processor,
10 the processor having means for comparing the visual scan data with a database of approved user
11 visual scan data; and

12 upon a match being achieved by the comparing means, means for transmitting an
13 approval code from the processor to the visual display device for permitting interaction between the
14 user and the processor via the visual display device and to display a communication from the
15 processor to the user.

1 **22.** The system recited in Claim 21, wherein the visual display device comprises a touch
2 screen adapted for transducing a physical contact into a location-dependent electronic signal
3 transmittable to the processor.

1 **23.** The system recited in Claim 21, wherein the first detector comprises a transponder
2 reader adapted to receive a signal from a transponder.

1 **24.** A method for providing information to a user comprising the steps of:
2 automatically detecting an identification code transmitted from a transponder housed
3 in a personal information device;
4 transmitting the identification code to a processor;
5 using software means resident in the processor to compare the identification code
6 with a list of approved identification codes, each identification code indicative of a particular user;
7 displaying an indication of approval to the user on a display device and permitting
8 interaction with the processor by the user if the identification code matches a code on the approved
9 code list;
10 if approval is indicated, correlating the identification code with a set of data to be
11 transmitted;
12 retrieving the data set from a storage device; and
13 transmitting the data set to the personal information device.

1 **25.** The method recited in Claim 24, wherein the identification code detecting step and
2 the data set transmitting step comprise wireless communications.